

### **Judging Beatty (F451 Part 3)**

A good writer often leaves some questions unanswered or partially explored. You are left to interpret the thoughts and actions of characters and weigh evidence to make judgments. In *Fahrenheit 451*, Bradbury uses this technique to engage you and lay seeds of doubt about Beatty's motives for needling the armed Montag. Shortly after Montag turns the flame thrower on Beatty and the mechanical Hound, he collapses, sobs, and realizes "Beatty wanted to die."

The Unanswered Question: *Why* did Beatty want to die?

- 1) What were Beatty's motives for taunting Montag?
- 2) Consider Montag's thoughts on what he believes is the truth of Beatty's death.
- 3) Consider Beatty's actions leading up to his death.
- 4) Do you think Beatty wanted to die? Why or why not?

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